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14 JUL 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]
Emergency Planning Officer

SUBJECT : The Emergency Relocation Center [redacted] 25X1

REFERENCE : Memo dtd 12 Jun 61 to DD/S fr EPO, same subject

1. I agree generally with your recommendations contained in subparagraphs a. and c. of paragraph 5. of the referenced memorandum; however, I do not agree with those contained in subparagraphs b., d. and e., all of which involve the Records Center and its use.

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2. First of all, it was decided that our Emergency Relocation Center would be at [redacted] long before it was ever thought of putting our Records Center there. Indeed, it could be argued that as long as we had a Vital Materials Repository we would not need to have our Records Center at the Emergency Relocation Center. Nevertheless, it made sense to locate our Records Center on an Agency-owned installation with built-in security and other support. After it was established there it also made sense to combine the Records Center with the Vital Materials Repository. In short, I think that our requirement for a Records Center and its location at the [redacted] are based on sound principles which should not be sacrificed for the sake of theoretical expediency. We have a requirement for a Records Center whether it be located at [redacted] or elsewhere, and this requirement will continue to exist after an enemy-provoked emergency. Hence, it seems clear to me that it would not be practicable to vacate the Records Center immediately in the event of an emergency. In the first place, it would be a physical impossibility, and, in the second place, the records either would have to be moved out in open storage or we would have to provide a place to move them in advance. In short, we would have to build or lease another Records Center now. All of this seems highly illogical to me. Therefore, if we assume that our Records Center is a requirement and will not be available for other purposes during an emergency, then the question of whether or not to microfilm becomes purely academic insofar as emergency planning is concerned.

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3. It seems to me that we need to do these things:

a. keep the Records Center Building out of our short-run planning;

b. determine whether or not it is feasible to harden the [redacted]

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c. if it is feasible, prepare a master plan for hardening;

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d. concurrently, prepare a master development plan for continuing Agency facility, including programmed replacement and new building; and,

e. ensure that there is a minimum duplication of facilities between the programs outlined in c. and d. above. (For example, a single dispensary might well serve both purposes.)

4. Please consider this matter further, consult with other appropriate officials and submit your recommendations as to how we might implement this or some other appropriate program.

1 Attachment:
Att 1: Referenced Memo

15/
L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

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O-DD/S:IG:hs (12 July 61)

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